

same month. The date when the first specimen was procured here is unknown.

The WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*) breeding in Ireland.—Within the last few years these birds have bred in several of the Irish counties, including northern, central, and southern. The details on this subject, as well as on the spotted redshank and night heron, are reserved for their due place in my intended series of papers on the Birds of Ireland, of which three have already appeared in the second volume of the Magazine of Zoology and Botany, and one in the first number of this work.—W. THOMPSON, *Belfast, March 1838.*

FOSIL SALAMANDER AND COPROLITE.

In a Letter from M. de Paravey to the French Academy, the writer states that he saw at Leyden, in the cabinet of M. van Breda, the fossil skeleton of a salamander, about three feet long, and in a more perfect state than that figured by Scheuchzer in his *Homo diluvii testis*. What increases the value of this specimen is that it contains in the part corresponding to the abdomen several coprolites, in which we detect fragments of the bones of frogs and of eels, &c., so that we have proof that the antediluvian species had the same kind of food as the larger salamanders of the present day. A very large salamander, brought by M. Siebold from Japan, is still living at the Leyden Museum, and is fed chiefly with frogs. This celebrated traveller brought to Europe the male and female, but the latter was one day devoured by its companion, which no doubt had been kept too long without food.—*Comptes Rendus*, Nov. 19, 1838.

HABITS OF THE BLUE TITMOUSE (*Parus cœruleus*).

A redstart (*Phœnicura ruticilla*), and a blue titmouse built nests in an old wall within a few feet of my parlour window. The nests were placed within three feet of each other; that of the redstart in a very open rent, while that of the titmouse was better secured by having a very small entrance, as is usually the case with the situations chosen by this bird. My attention was at first attracted by the violence with which I frequently saw the titmouse drive away both the parent redstarts when approaching their own nest with food for their young; and, knowing the pugnacious disposition of the titmouse, I at first thought that it wished to destroy its neighbours, as after chasing them to a little distance it would fly into the redstart's nest. As the redstart was to me the rarest bird, I began to debate with myself whether I should not destroy the titmouse, that the other might not be prevented from bringing up its young. In the